

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN,UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

STATE FOR CU/EE, RICHMOND

REF: (A) MOSCOW 7284; (B) MOSCOW 7865

1. CHIEF OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, STATE COMMITTEE FOR FILM SLAVNOV AGAIN CALLED ACAO TO URGENT MEETING HIS OFFICE JUNE 11. SLAVNOV EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN THAT US HAS STILL NOT SUBMITTED FEATURE FILM ENTRIES TO MOSCOW FILM FESTIVAL AND SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT US WAS NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE. HE INTIMATED THAT THERE SOME SORT OF OFFICIAL PRESSURE BEING APPLIED TO MINIMIZE US PARTICIPATION AND THAT THIS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND USSR. HE COULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER CLARIFYING DETAILS. ACAO REPLIED HE UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH PRESSURES AND AGAIN EXPLAINED THAT EMBASSY AND DEPT. ESSENTIALLY ACTING AS INTERESTED PARTIES WITHOUT AUTHORITY TO COMPELL US FILM INDUSTRY TO PARTICIPATE, BUT THAT HE WOULD AGAIN EXPRESS SLAVNOV'S STRONG CONCERN AND ASK FOR RESPONSE. SLAVNOV SAID HE NEEDED SOME INDICATION OF US INTENTIONS EVEN IF ANSWER NEGATIVE. FESTIVAL HE SAID WOULD GO ON WITH OR WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF FEATURE FILMS FROM US.

2. IN ADDITION TO SLAVNOV, MEETING ATTENDED BY SECRETARY
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OF MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL NADEZHDA VOLCHENKO

WHO HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO ACAO ON JUNE 6 AS REPORTED REFTEL B. AND N.I. BUROV CHIEF CAPITALIST COUNTRY'S SECTION GOSKINO. EVIDENT FROM SLAVNOV'S REMARKS AND LOOKS ON FACES OF HIMSELF AND COLLEAGUES THAT GOSKINO VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION AND MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT IN FRONT OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT IF US DOES NOT PARTICIPATE AS MAJOR FILM PRODUCER.

3. SITUATION BECOMING EMBARRASSING TO EMBASSY WHICH FOR THIRD TIME HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GIVE GOSKINO ANY HELPFUL RESPONSE TO THEIR URGENT QUESTIONS. REQUEST DEPT. ADVISE ASAP WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT AMERICAN FILM INDUSTRY'S INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO SUBMISSION OF FEATURE FILMS, AND ATTENDANCE OF STARS AND MAJOR PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS AT FILM FESTIVAL. ACAO TOLD SLAVNOV HE WOULD ATTEMPT HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR HIM BY JUNE TWELVE. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF FILMS IS JUNE FIFTEEN BUT GOSKINO WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS AFTER THAT DATE THAT ARE NOT INSULTINGLY LATE. MATLOCK

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